



## **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – December 15, 2014**

### **FirstNet News**

- The FirstNet Committee and Board meetings were held in Salt Lake City, UT on December 9-10, during which there was extensive discussion about the RFI, public notice and consultation. The Board liaison to the PSAC, Jeff Johnson, was appointed Vice Chair. The agenda and presentations may be found on our website: <http://firstnet.gov/content/board-meeting-december-2014>.
- The user advocacy team conducted the initial consultation meeting with Florida on December 12. Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings in 2015 are: Nevada (1/7), Colorado (1/14 or 1/15), Kentucky (1/28), Texas (2/11), Delaware (2/19), Arkansas (3/4), Massachusetts (3/12), Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), North Carolina (4/23) and South Carolina (4/29).
- Last week, FirstNet participated in a New Mexico Statewide State and Local Implementation Grant Program and Outreach event, U.S. Virgin Islands Commonwealth-Wide Outreach events and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) conference.
- This week, FirstNet will be participating in a webinar for a Tribal Telecom Conference (TTC) session; the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) Alaska Rural Broadband Workshop; and the ANCSA Regional Association, Alaska Inter-tribal Council, Denali Commission, and Tanana Chiefs Conference.
- To date, FirstNet has received completed state consultation checklists from 37 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

## **From the States and PSAC Organizations**

- As a reminder, SPOC/SWIC calls will occur on December 15 (Regions 5 & 9), December 17 (Regions 6, 7 & 8), December 18 (Regions 1, 2 & 10), and December 19 (Regions 3 & 4).
- The PSAC Early Builders Working Group will have a kick off conference call on December 16.

## **Media Watch**

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### *Traditional Media*

There was significant media coverage on a number of fronts this week, with the IG report garnering the most attention from the online and trade publications that cover FirstNet, as well as other IT and congressional news outlets that only periodically cover FirstNet. To date, the *New York Times* and *McClatchy News Service* are the only “tier 1” services to have covered the report.

Additionally, it appears that the Board meeting may have shifted attention away from the IG report and toward FirstNet priorities and activities. The day after the IG report saw several stories posted on key developments from the Board meeting, including the focus on consultation and Jeff Johnson's appointment as Vice Chair. We will continue to monitor any developments from the IG report, but as of today, we are not aware of any follow-up stories in production. Recent Board meeting articles include the following:

## **TR Daily (Summary): FirstNet Officials Stress Importance of Consultation Through Process**

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) officials today stressed the importance of consulting with states and others in the public safety community throughout its process of planning and deploying a nationwide public safety broadband network, not just until it

issues a comprehensive network request for proposals (RFP) and completes state plans and states decide whether to build their own radio access network (RAN). "We have to continue to consult," acting General Manager TJ Kennedy said at FirstNet board's meeting in Salt Lake City. "Consultation's an ongoing effort."

### **Communications Daily (Summary): FirstNet's Attention Mostly Focused on Pending Request for Proposal, GM Says**

Outreach and a pending request for proposal as FirstNet builds a network is dominating the time and attention of staff, acting General Manager TJ Kennedy told the FirstNet board Wednesday. "Almost everything else that we do in FirstNet supports these two efforts," Kennedy said. The day after the release of a Commerce Department Inspector General report on irregularities at FirstNet (see 1412090043), the board met Wednesday, with members stressing the progress that has been made so far by the authority, established by the 2012 spectrum law. Kennedy said he's encouraged by the high totals of provisionally winning bids in the FCC's AWS-3 auction. While bidding in the auction has slowed, it topped \$43 billion Wednesday. There has been "lots of vigorous bidding," said Kennedy. The results "give us great confidence that we're now going to be funded for our initial \$7 billion worth of funding," he said.

### **Radio Resource: FirstNet Continues on Outreach and Consultation Path, Highlights RFI Findings**

[http://www.radioresourcemag.com/newsArticle.cfm?news\\_id=11503](http://www.radioresourcemag.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=11503)

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) continues on its path of outreach and consultations with states and provided a presentation highlighting findings from its recent request for information (RFI) and public notice process during its Dec. 10 board meeting. Acting Executive Director TJ Kennedy said everything FirstNet is doing is focused on the consultation process and acquisition and request for proposals (RFP) process. "Everything we are doing is focused on this," Kennedy said. "The two things work together. The two must go hand in hand." Jeff Johnson, FirstNet board member and newly named

### **Government Technology: FirstNet CTO Ali Afrashteh Resigns**

<http://www.govtech.com/federal/FirstNet-CTO-Ali-Afrashteh-Resigns.html>

FirstNet lost another key member of its leadership this month. The leadership shuffle at the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) continues. Former FirstNet Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Ali Afrashteh has resigned, FirstNet confirmed this week.

Afrashteh cited “personal reasons,” and FirstNet said it wished Afrashteh a “speedy recovery.”

### *Social Media*

Social media discussions focused on the main news stories of the week – including the Politico story about whether more AWS auction funding should go to FirstNet; the IG Report; and Board meetings. Sue’s blog response to the IG Report was referenced on social media and in news articles. The “[A Message from the FirstNet Chair](#)” received 327 views within the two days, which is more than triple the amount of normal blog views in the first couple days of being posted. The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 1,306 followers, and the LinkedIn account has more than 384 followers.

The Board meeting generated a lot of interest and engagement over Twitter, with several stakeholders retweeting FirstNet messages and some reporters tweeting real-time quotes from Board members during the meeting. We also posted a number of blogs over the past week, including stories about our environmental scoping program; the NJ BTOP project; and introducing new members to the technical team. Our blog posts from this week can be found at: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>. We have a number of blogs in the queue for the next week to keep the dialogue moving forward on other key issues (i.e., Florida consultation, the New Mexico BTOP, recent meetings with Canadian public safety officials; meeting with Dallas public safety officials).